



The Snail and His House



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The Snail and His House

— A Fairy Tale of the Zhuang Nationality

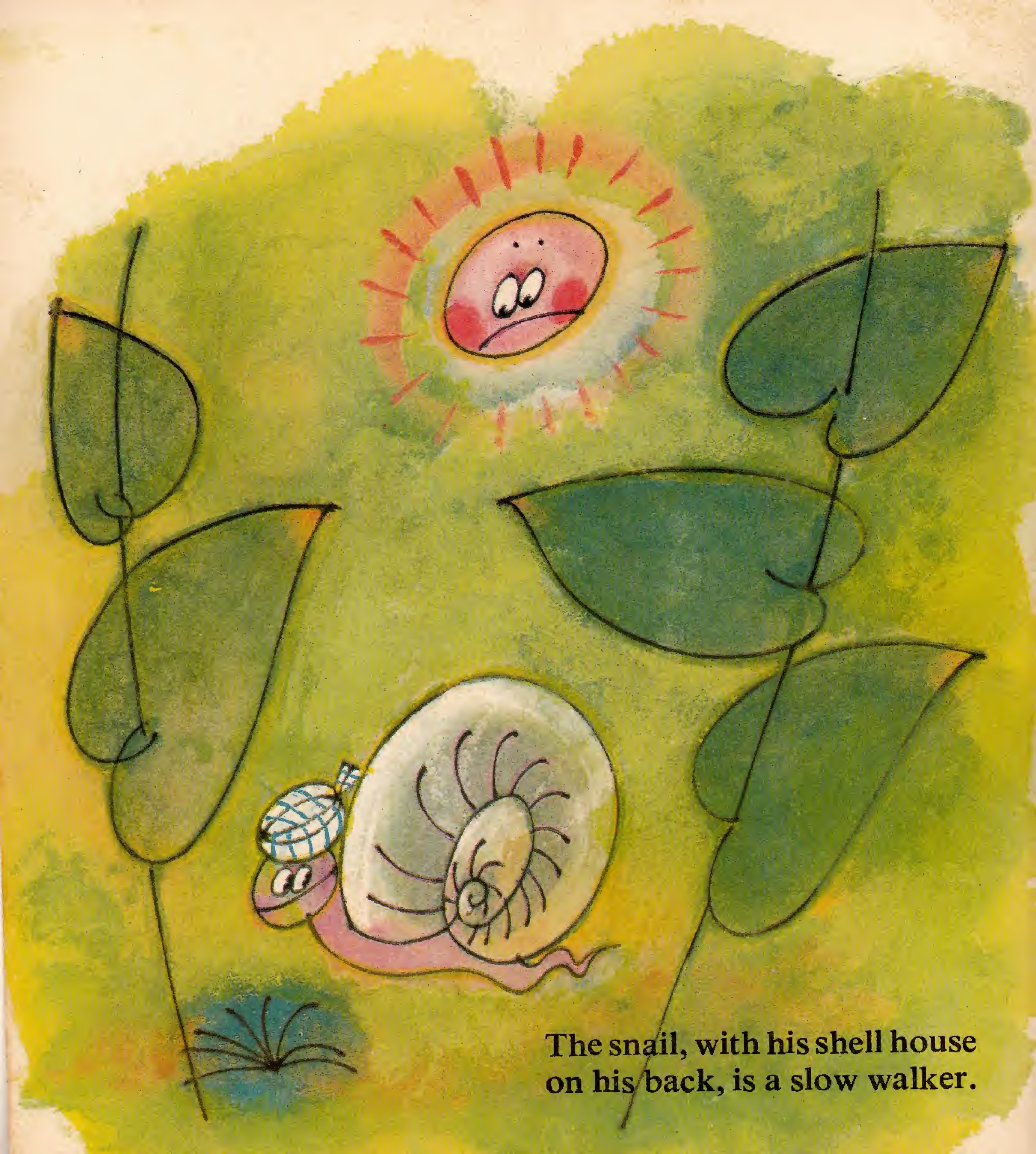
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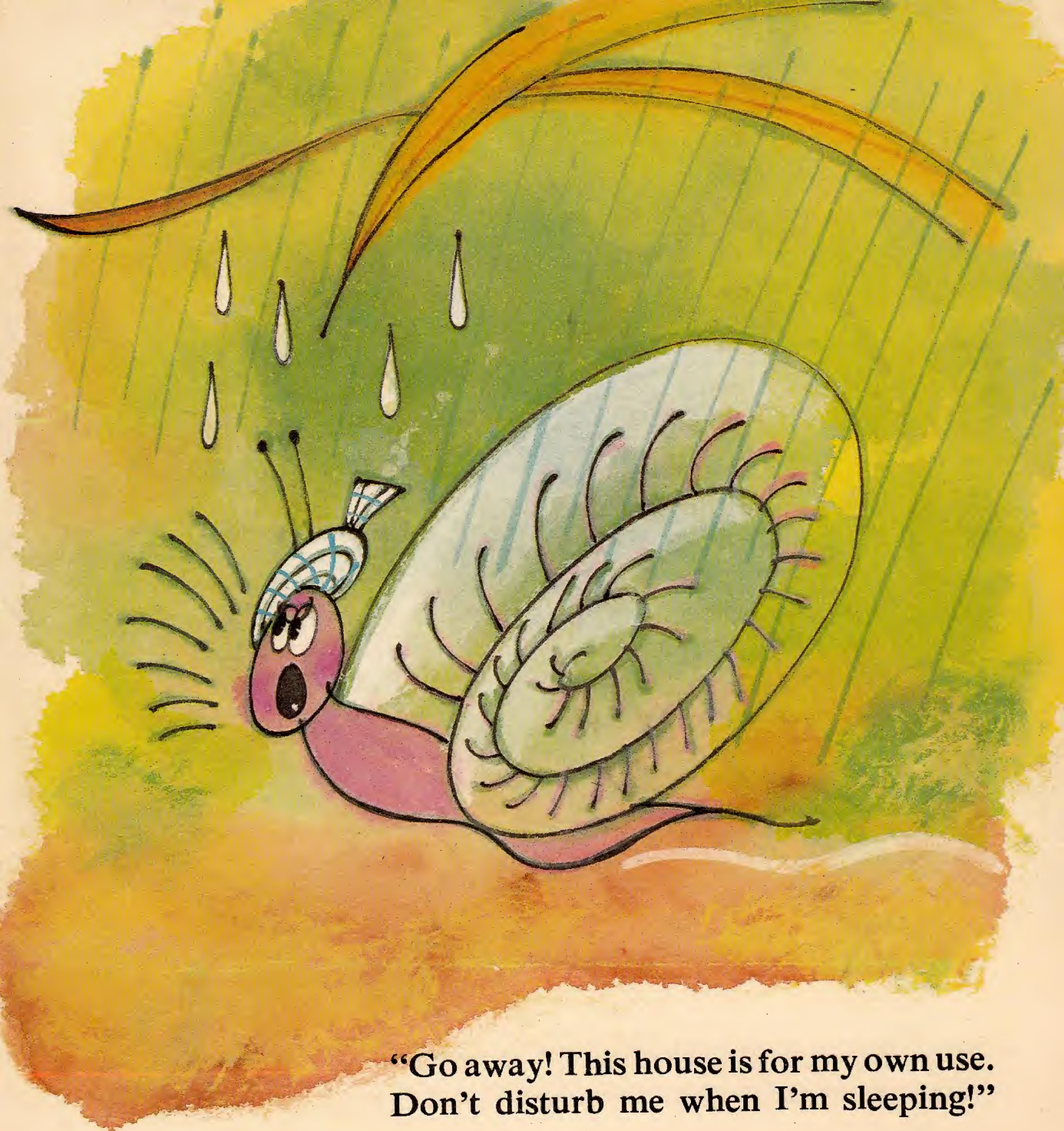
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The snail, with his shell house
on his back, is a slow walker.



A dragonfly, looking for shelter, goes to the snail's house and asks, "Brother Snail, please let me in!"



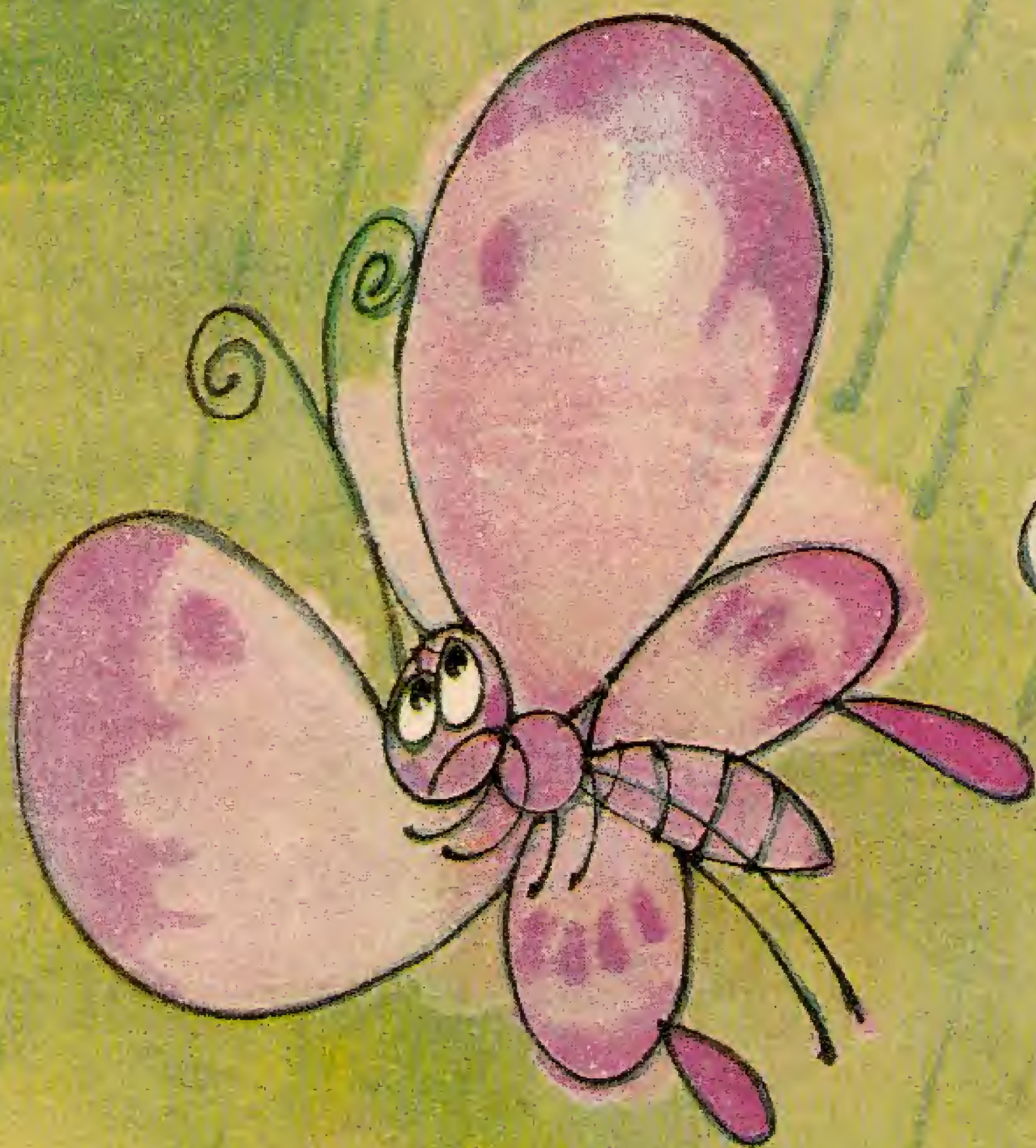
**“Go away! This house is for my own use.
Don’t disturb me when I’m sleeping!”**



An ant, gasping for breath in the rain, goes up to the snail's house. "Brother Snail, please let me in out of the rain for a while!" he begs.



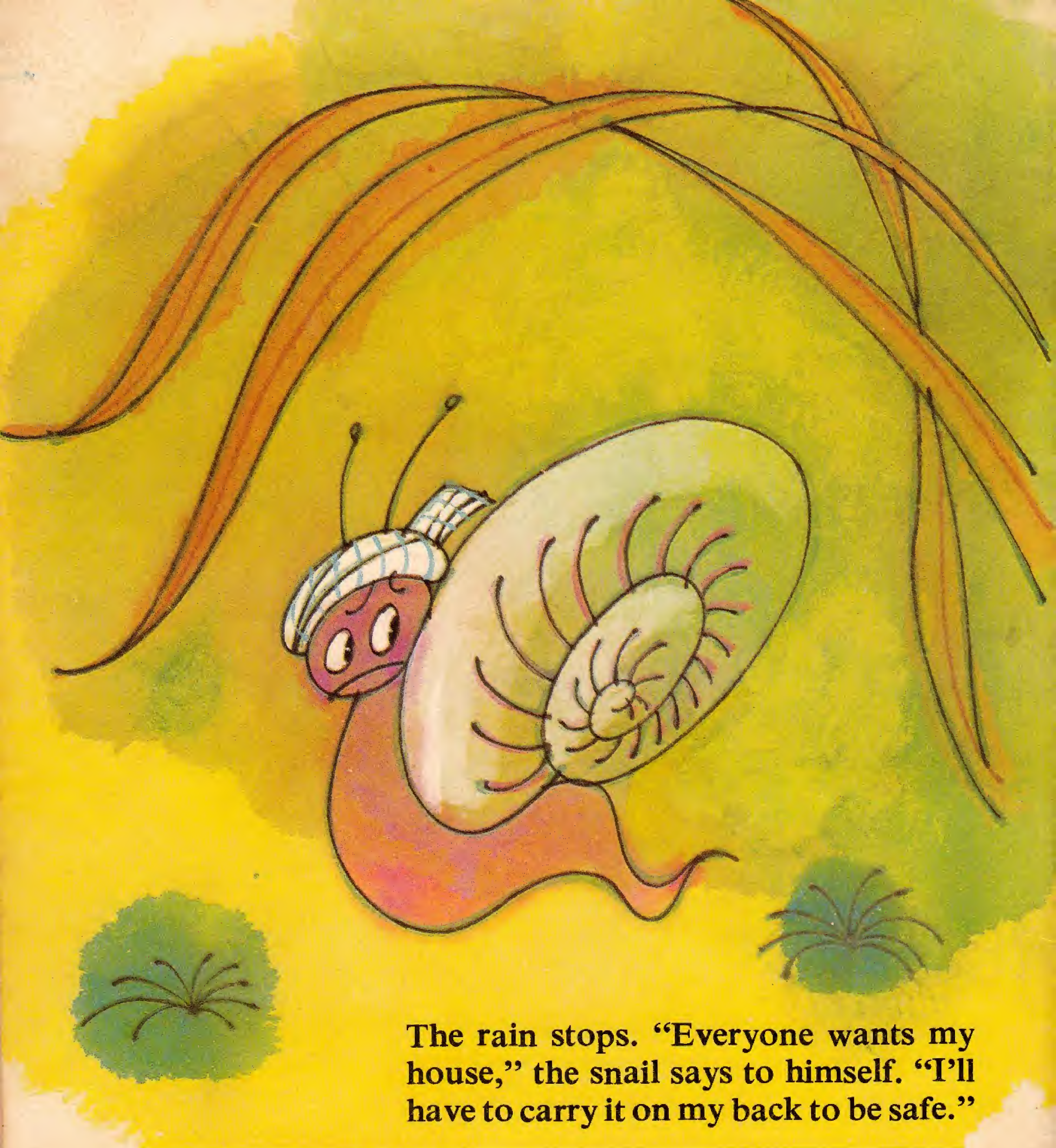
**“Don’t bother me! No one
is to step into my house!”**



A butterfly, a bee, a caterpillar and a beetle all ask the snail for help.



“Get out of here, all of you! I don’t care what happens to you!”



The rain stops. "Everyone wants my house," the snail says to himself. "I'll have to carry it on my back to be safe."

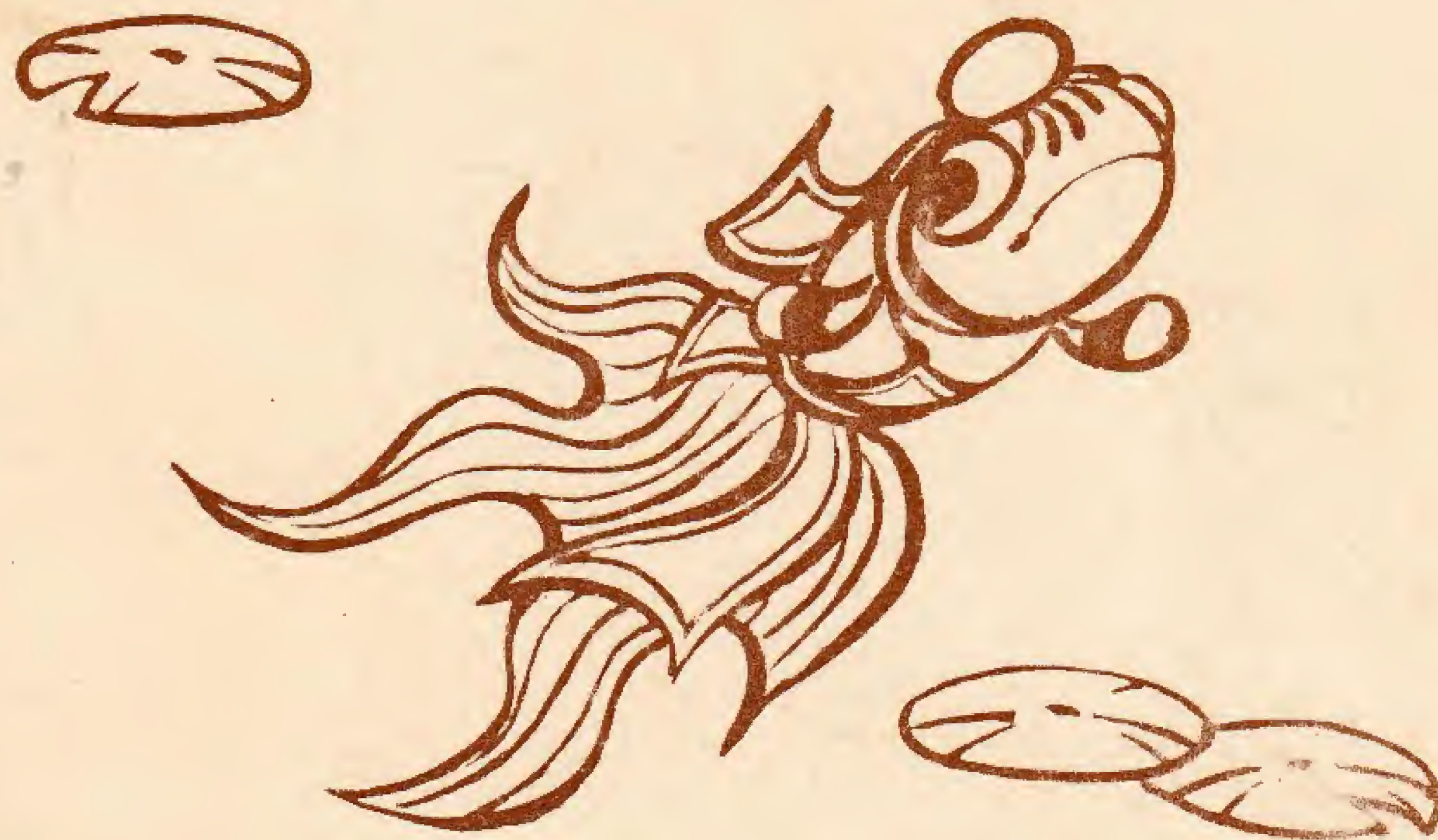
And that is why the snail moves
so slowly—that load of selfish-
ness on his back is just too heavy.



The Stuck-Up Golden Fish

— A Fairy Tale of the Bouyei Nationality

Edited and illustrated by Zhan Tong

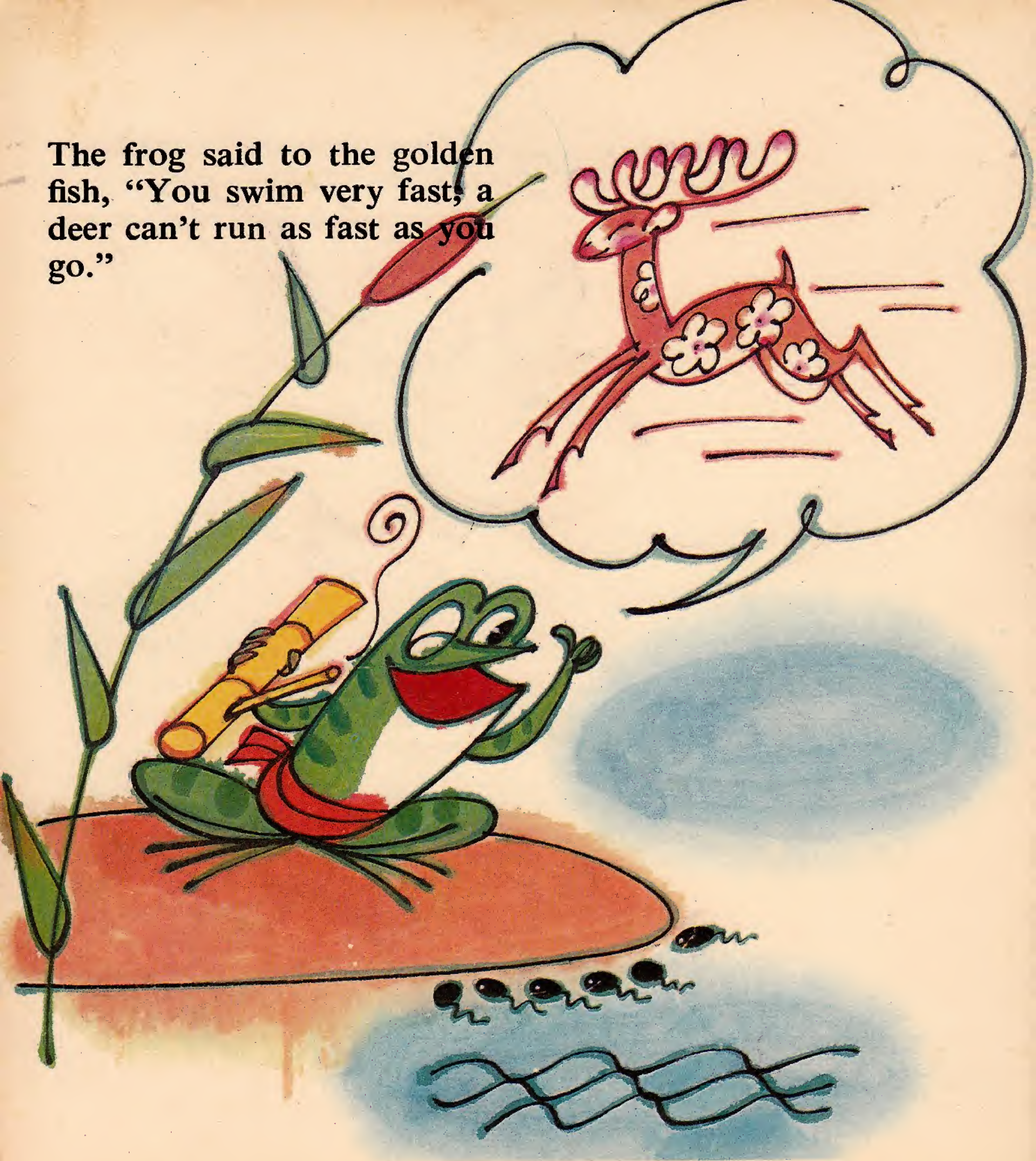


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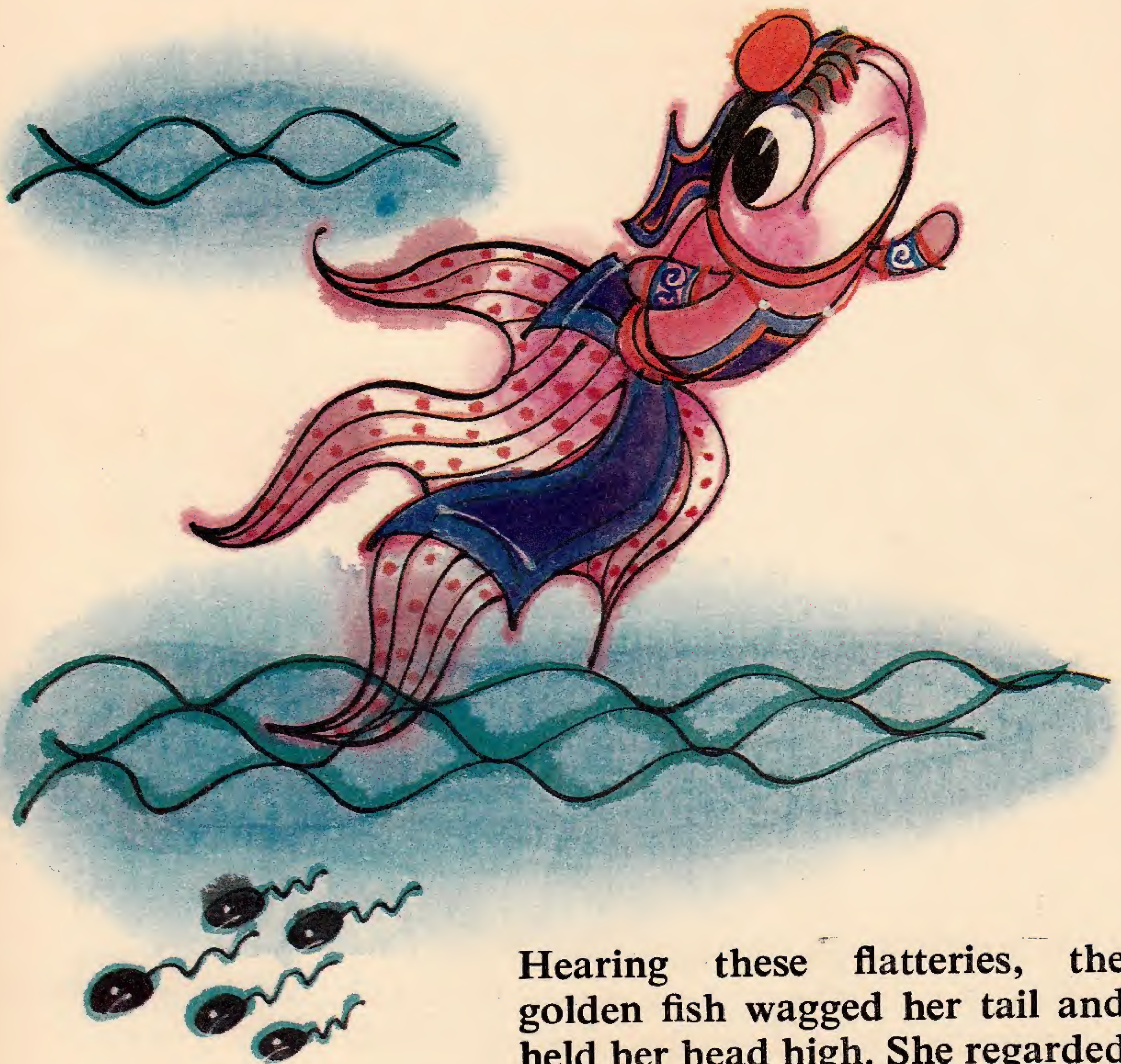
In a pond swam a beautiful
golden fish with a fan-like tail.

The frog said to the golden fish, "You swim very fast, a deer can't run as fast as you go."





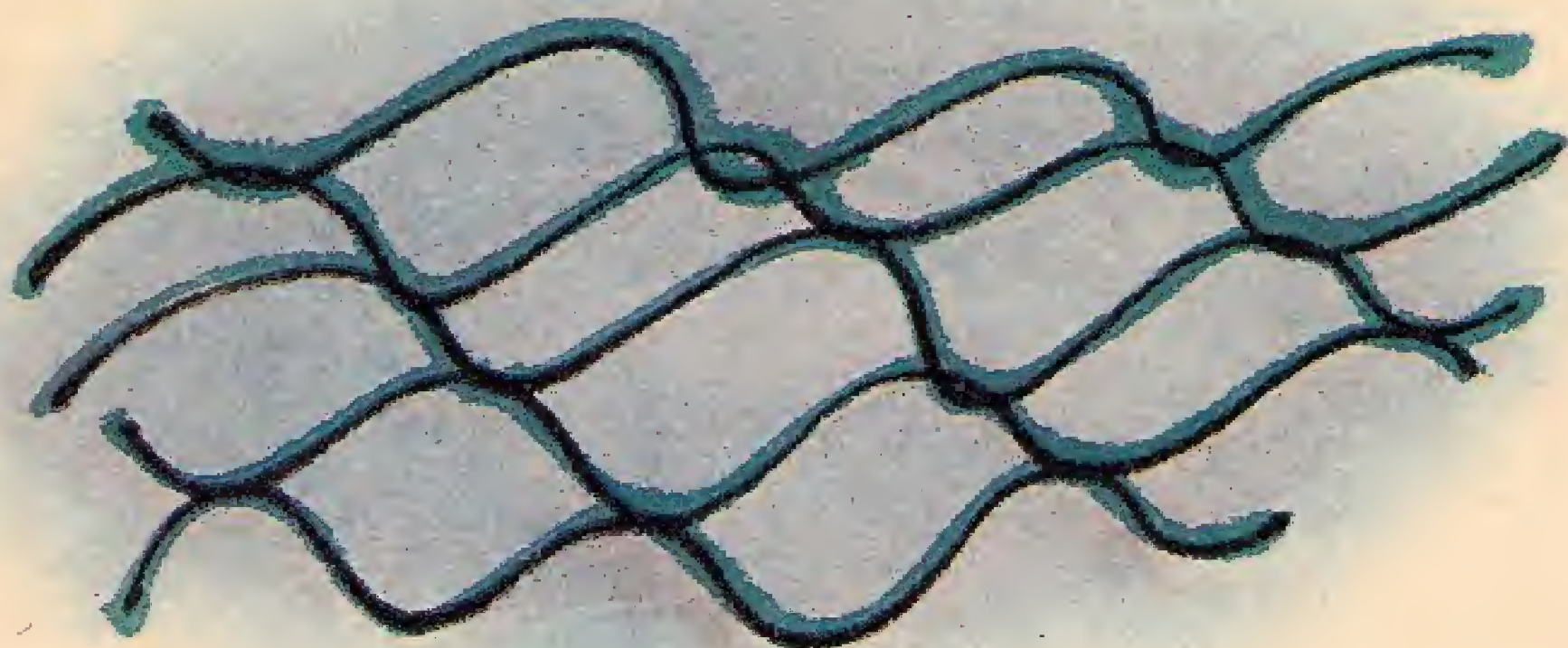
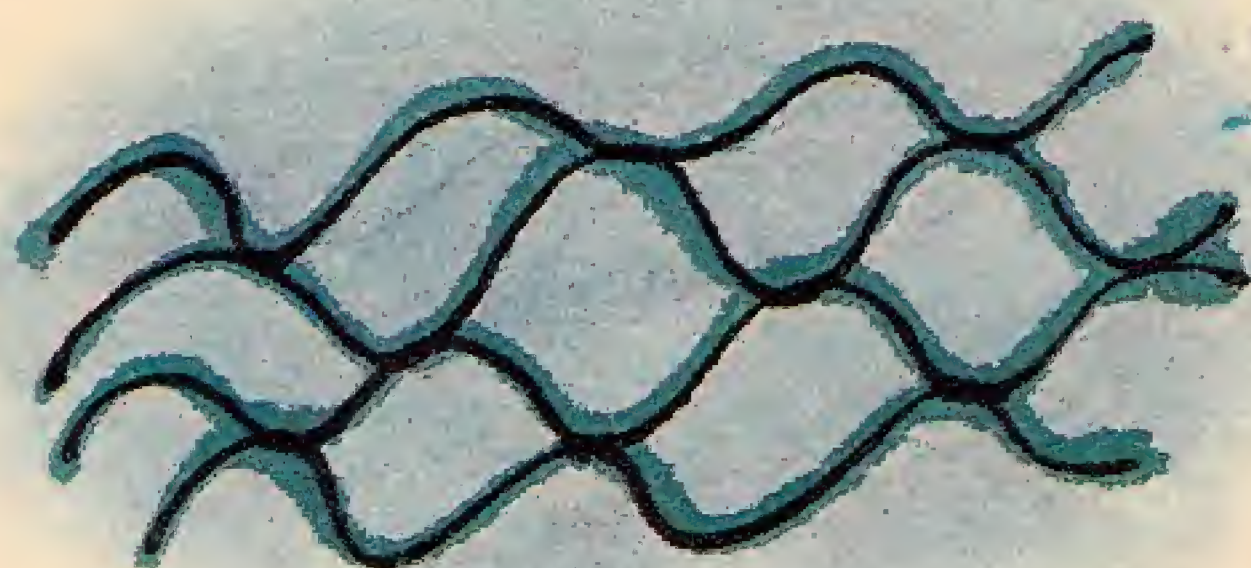
The crab said to the golden fish, "Your swimming skill is very good; a phoenix can't fly as gracefully as you."



Hearing these flatteries, the golden fish wagged her tail and held her head high. She regarded herself as far superior to others.

So the golden fish said to the frog,
“Go away! I’m a deer, I don’t like
talking to an ugly creature like you.”





To the crab the golden fish
said, "Go away! I'm a
phoenix, I don't want to
speak to you little sillies."

And then the golden fish
said to the pond, "I can't live
with you any longer." So she
jumped out of the water.



The golden fish said proudly,
"Look! I'm going to fly. . . ."
But before she finished her
words, she fell down on the
ground and died soon because
fish can only live in water.



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Chinese Fairy Tales



The Snail and His House, one of the *Chinese Fairy Tales* series of six picture books, is adapted from animal stories popular among Chinese people, who often give birds and animals human attributes and dress them in colourful national costumes.

Also included in this series are *Silly Young Billy Goat*, *The Otter and the Toad*, *Two Foolish Kittens*, *Little Pigeon Fights a Fire*, and *Little Chicken and Her Friends*.

In a pouring rain he pulls
back his head and goes to
sleep inside his house.

